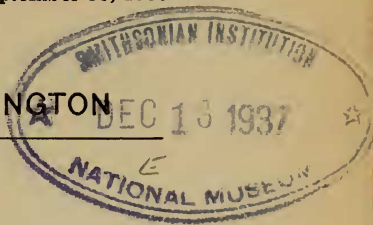


PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



THE YELLOW-GREEN VIREO OF NORTHWESTERN  
MEXICO.

BY A. J. VAN ROSSEM AND THE MARQUESS HACHISUKA.

Several years ago one of the writers (van Rossem) had occasion to make a more than casual study of the geographic behavior of the yellow-green vireo, the object at that time being the determination of sundry nondescript specimens taken in El Salvador during fall and spring migrations. During the course of this work it was found that the available material from northwestern Mexico in the U. S. National Museum and Biological Survey (9 specimens from Sinaloa and Nayarit) and also a specimen from Oposura, Sonora, in the British Museum, indicated strongly that a distinct race existed in that region. A small series recently taken by van Rossem and Hannum in southern Sonora confirms the fact that the characters formerly observed were not due to any post mortem color changes and we do not hesitate, therefore, in giving a name to the yellow-green vireos of northwestern Mexico.<sup>1</sup> The race will be known as

*Vireo olivaceus hypoleucus*, subs. nov.

*Type*.—♂ adult in breeding condition, no. 31884, Dickey collection; collected at San Francisco Cañon on the extreme eastern boundary of Sonora at Lat. 27° N., on May 29, 1937, by A. J. van Rossem and Robert Hannum; altitude (approximately), 1200 feet; life zone, Arid Lower Tropical.

*Subspecific characters*.—Similar in size to *Vireo olivaceus flavoviridis* (Cassin) of southern Mexico and Central America, but in color duller above and paler below; median area from chin to anal region more purely (less grayish) white and more extensive; sides, under wing coverts, and under tail coverts paler and yellower (less greenish). Upper parts, including

<sup>1</sup> For recent opinions on the relationships of the red-eyed vireos see Zimmer, *Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser.*, 17, No. 7, Dec., 1930, pp. 413-414; Peters, *Auk*, 48 July, 1931, pp. 575-587, and Hellmayr, *Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser.*, 13, Pt. 8, 1935, p. 132.

edgings of wing feathers, duller and more olive (less yellowish) green; pileum paler and more purely (less olive) gray.

*Range.*—In summer, the Lower Arid Tropical Zone west of the Sierra Madre from central eastern Sonora south to southern Sinaloa and Nayarit. Winter range unknown, but the race occurs in migration in El Salvador.

*Remarks.*—The new race shows a definite approach to *Vireo olivaceus olivaceus* of the eastern United States in all color characters save that of the blackish line on each side of the pileum, in which respect it is very close to *flavoviridis*, though possibly averaging less distinct.

In this connection certain Tamaulipas (Victoria) specimens in the collection of the Biological Survey suggest an even closer approach to *olivaceus*, although others from the same State (Alta Mira) seem to be typical of *flavoviridis*.

Like all North and Middle American races of this species the present one is migratory and does not reach its breeding grounds until about June 1. Although the collectors were continuously in the field in suitable territory from May 11, it was not until the 29th of that month that the first individuals (singing males) appeared. The first female was detected on June 13, and the first nest building was observed on June 16.

Twenty specimens of *hypoleucus* have been examined from Sonora (Oposura; Rancho Santa Barbara; Guirocoba; San Francisco Cañon; Tesia), Sinaloa (Rosario; Mazatlan), Nayarit (Santiago), and El Salvador (Lake Olomega). In the comparative description above we have used 32 breeding specimens from El Salvador as representing *flavoviridis*. This locality is so close to one of those named by Cassin in his original description as to make them virtual topotypes. We believe that a designation of "western Nicaragua" is in order as a restricted type locality for *flavoviridis*. Such a designation eliminates the ever present possibility that some one might apply Cassin's name to the Panama race *insulanus*.